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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shinji Tsujio
Serial No. : Not Yet Assigned
Filed : Not Yet Assigned
For : ERASABLE INK AND WATER-BASE BALLPOINT PEN
USING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States
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April 24, 2001
Date of Deposit

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April 24, 2001
Date of Signature

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EF321689836US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent
application as follows:

In The Claims:

1. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition comprising at least one colorant and at least one film-forming resin, wherein said colorant has a mean particle size diameter of 2 to 7 μm and wherein particles having a size of not more than 1.8 μm account for not more than 1.6% by weight of said colorant and wherein particles having a size of not less than 7 μm account for not more than 0.5% by weight of said colorant.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please cancel claim 3.

4. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the content of the colorant in said ink composition is 1 to 40% by weight.

5. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1 which comprises a water-soluble polymer.

6. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1 which comprises a polysaccharide.

7. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1 which comprises at least one polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, carboxymethylcellulose, guar gum, pullulan, rhamsan gum, welan gum and succinoglucan.

8. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 4% by weight, based on the ink composition.

9. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition has a viscosity of 100 to 10,000 mPa•s as determined by using an ELD viscometer (3° (R14 cone), 0.5 rpm (20°C)).

10. (Amended) A water-base ballpoint pen comprising an ink composition according to claim 1.

Please add the following claims:

11. (New) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colorant is at least one selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, carbon black, ultramarine blue, cobalt blue, chromium oxide, iron oxide red, graphite, C.I. pigment black 1, C.I. pigment green 7, C.I. pigment blue 15, C.I. pigment red 112 and C.I. pigment violet 19.

12. (New) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colorant is colored resin beads.

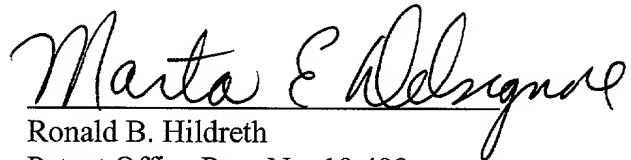
13. (New) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film-forming resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene rubbers, acrylonitrile-butadiene rubbers, chloroprene rubbers and latices.

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment the claims have been amended to conform more closely to U.S. patent format. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. New claims 11-13 have been added to the application. New claims 11-13 are supported by page 4, lines 3-13 and page 10, lines 17-24 of the application. It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered as it does not constitute new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition [containing] comprising at least one colorant and at least one film-forming resin, [characterized in that] wherein said colorant has a mean particle size diameter of [not less than] 2 to 7 μm and [that] wherein particles having a size of not more than 1.8 μm account for not more than 1.6% by weight of said colorant and wherein particles having a size of not less than 7 μm account for not more than 0.5% by weight of said colorant.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please cancel claim 3.

4. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3,] claim 1 wherein the content of the colorant in said ink composition is 1 to 40% by weight.

5. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 which [contains] comprises a water-soluble polymer.

6. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 which [contains] comprises a polysaccharide.

7. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 which [contains] comprises at least one polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, carboxymethylcellulose, guar gum, pullulan, rhamsan gum, welan gum and succinoglucan.

8. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3 which contains] claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 4% by weight, based on the ink composition.

9. (Amended) An erasable aqueous ink composition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3 which] claim 1 wherein the composition has a viscosity of 100 to 10,000 mPa•s as determined by using an ELD viscometer (3° (R14 cone), 0.5 rpm (20°C)).

10. (Amended) A water-base ballpoint pen [in which the] comprising an ink composition according to [any of claims 1 to 3 is used] claim 1.